

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC

COGARD

GOVGUAM

TREASURY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 25 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

DAVID ROGERS (REUTER) IN PEKING REPORTS SINO-SOV BORDER
TALKS REMAIN DEADLOCKED AND SOVIET IS RECALLING CHIEF
NEGOTIATOR LEONID ILYICHEV.

IN BRUSSELS, EC SPOKESMAN SAYS PRC READY RESUME TALKS ON
EC-PRC TRADE AGREEMENT AFTER ALMOST YEAR INTERVAL (CSM).

2. JAPAN

GOJ REFUSES RECOGNIZE NEW SOVIET FISHING ZONE THAT INCLUDES
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WATERS OFF DISPUTED KURILE ISLANDS, WHICH USSR HAS HELD
SINCE WWII. FUKUDA SAYS WATERS OFF ISLES WILL BE INCORPOR-
ATED INTO JAPANESE WATERS WHEN COUNTRY'S PRESENT 3-MILE
LIMIT EXTENDED TO 12 LATER THIS YR. SOVIET MOVE COMES 4
DAYS BEFORE JAPANESE AGRIC/FORESTRY MINISTER DUE BEGIN TALKS
W/SOV FISHERIES MINISTER IN MOSCOW. ANNUAL SOV-JAPANESE
NEGOTS ON FISHING QUOTAS SCHEDULED BEGIN 3/15 (REUTER'S

KERR, TOKYO).

MITI SOON TO BEGIN MEASURES DESIGNED HELP HARD-PRESSED JAPANESE TEXTILE INDUSTRY. MAIN POINT GOJ PLAN CALLS FOR BANKING/PROMOTION INSTITUTIONS EXTEND LOANS TO TEXTILE MFRS IN DIFFICULT FINANCIAL SITUATIONS (UPI, JOC).

JAPANESE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY SOURCES SAY IF CURRENT 5 PCT PRICE HIKE IN EXPORT ORDERS, AIMED AT IMPROVEMENT EUR SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY, DOESN'T WORK WITHIN REASONABLE TIME, TRANSPORT MINISTRY WILL REVIEW ACTION/POSSIBLY REVERSE IT. JAPANESE BUILDERS/TRANSPORT MINISTRY VIEW ACTION AS OFFERING EUR OPPORTUNITY UPGRADE THEIR COMPETITIVE POSITIONS (CULLISON, JOC).

AT BROOKLINE MASS NEWS CONF 2/24, CONVICTED WATERGATE BURGLER/FORMER CIA AGENT E. HOWARD HUNT SAID GIVING MONEY TO FON GOVTS IS "HONORED TRADITION" WITHIN CIA. SAID WHEN CHIEF OF STATION ABROAD, "IT WAS COMMON" PAY "SUBSTANTIAL" FIGURES TO HOST GOVT OFFICIALS. CITED URUGUAY, MEXICO, "AND THE JAPANESE AT ONE PERIOD" (WP; AP, SUN).

USSR HOCKEY TEAM SUFFERED 1ST DEFEAT 2/24 IN 3RD GAME SOVIET-JAPAN GOODWILL MATCH, LOSING 3-2 (AP, NYT).

3. JAPAN/KOREA

ANSWERING QUESTIONS BEFORE DIET'S LOWER HOUSE BUDGET CMTE 2/24, DEF AGENCY CHIEF MIHARA SAID JAPAN NEVER CONSIDERED UNCLASSIFIED

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FORMING TRIPARTITE DEF SYSTEM W/US, SK IN CONNECTION W/ PLANNED US TROOP PULLOUT KOREA. ADDED JAPAN-US SUBCMTE ON DEF COOPERATION WOULD NOT TAKE UP MATTER TROOP WITHDRAWAL. IN RESPONSE TO BUDGET CMTE QUERY, FON MIN HATOYAMA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD US NOT CONSIDERING TRANSFERRING TROOPS FROM SK TO JAPAN OR PAC REGION (REUTER TOKYO).

4. KOREA

VANCE TOLD SENATE CMTE THURS ADMIN HAS DECIDED REDUCE FOREIGN AID TO ARGENTINA/URUGUAY/ETHIOPIA DUE HUMAN RTS VIOLATIONS. ADDED US, BECAUSE OF OVERRIDING SECURITY COMMITMENTS, WILL NOT REDUCE AID TO SK/OTHER SUCH STRATEGICALLY PLACED ALLIES, WHATEVER THEIR VIOLATIONS HUMAN RTS (GWERTZMAN, NYT; OBERDORFER, WP; TREWHITT, SUN). SECSTATE SAID WOULD BE MISTAKE CUT SK ECON AID, CALLED FOR BALANCING CONCERN FOR HUMAN RTS AGAINST ECON/SECURITY GOALS (TREWHITT).

TAKAYAMA (SUN) QUOTES REPORT THAT KIM JUNG-IL MAY TAKE OVER
SOON FROM FATHER KIM IL-SUNG AS PRES NK.

5. KOREA/AUSTRALIA

DIPL SOURCES SAY GOA FONMIN MADE UNOFFICIAL PROTEST RE
HUMAN RTS SUPPRESSION TO ROKG FONMIN DURING CANBERRA
TALKS (REUTER CANBERRA).

6. AUSTRALIA

FORMER MAFIA BOSS TERESA, WHOSE COVER BLOWN WHEN AUSSIES
DEPORTED HIM, SLIPPED AWAY FROM SF BOUND PLANE IN HAWAII,
APPARENTLY HIDING FROM MOBSTERS WHO REPORTEDLY PUT 500,000
DOL "CONTRACT" ON LIFE (WP).

7. THAILAND
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POLICY SAY 85 BORDER POLICE KIA, 160 WIA IN PAST YR IN
CLASHES W/COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS/BANDITS. MOST CASUALTIES
WERE IN S PROVS (AP, WP).

8. THAILAND/BURMA

OPIUM WAR BREAKS OUT BETW BURMESE SHAN REBELS/REMNANTS
CHINAT ARMY IN NW THAILAND NEAR BORDER. SHANS SOUGHT
SANCTUARY IN THAILAND FROM PURSUING BURMESE TROOPS (REUTER
BANGKOK).

9. INDONESIA

ACCORDING EAST JAVA MIL CMDR WITARMIN, OVER 350 PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF ATTEMPTING SET UP ISLAMIC
STATE IN INDONESIA. PERSONS FORMER MEMBERS OF BANNED
ANTI-GOVT DARUL ISALAM MOVEMENT/AFFILIATED W/"HOLY WAR
COMMAND" PLEDGED TO FORM MOSLEM STATE (REUTER JAKARTA).

10. PRES' DOS VISIT

AT Q&A SESSION AT DOS 2/24, CARTER SAID HE WANTED GOOD
RELS W/VN/NK, AMONG OTHERS, AND SAID CAMBODIA/LAOS/IRAQ/
CUBA ON HIS LIST FOR POSSIBLE DETENTE, FOLLOWING LESSENING
OF TENSION W/PRC, USSR. PRES GAVE NO DETAIL ANY CONTACTS
WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE IN FURTHERING GOAL, BUT EX-
PRESSED PLEASURE AT RESPONSE RECEIVED "FROM OUR EMBRYONIC
EFFORTS TO FIND GROUND FOR UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE"
(REUTER'S HARRIS 2/24).

11. GENERAL

MALAYSIA/SINGAPORE/INDONESIA SIGN AGREEMENT ON SAFETY MEASURES TO PREVENT TANKERS' GROUNDING/COLLIDING IN MALACCA STRAITS SHIPPING LANE BETW MID/FAR EAST (AP NYDN, NYT).
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THIRD CONF VN RESOURCE CENTER/ILLINOIS HUMANITIES COUNCIL TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING BETW ASIANS AND AMERICANS WILL BE HELD IN EVANSTON THIS WEEKEND (CHITRIB).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

12. THAILAND

SUN'S ISAACS (IN BANGKOK) SEES RTG PLAGUED BY POL INSTABILITY/LAW-AND-ORDER CRISIS, SAME ISSUES THAT BROUGHT DOWN SHORT-LIVED DEMOCRACY. REVIEWS GOVT POLICIES. OPINES FEW THAIS APPEAR MOURN LOSS POL LIBERTIES, BUT DOES NOT MEAN "LOUDLY CHEERING" NEW REGIME; BASIC REASONS FOR HI CRIME RATE UNTOUCHED: POVERTY/ALIENATED RURAL MIGRANTS CROWDED INTO CITY/INADEQUATE POLICE FORCE; PEOPLE NOT PERSUADED POL STABILITY ESTABLISHED AS RUMORS OF SPLITS WITHIN GOVT PERSIST; ANTICORRUPTION CMTE HAS SHOWN NO IMPRESSIVE RESULTS; BUSINESS CONFIDENCE NOT SIGNIFICANTLY RESTORED.

13. INDONESIA

WP'S SIMONS (IN JAKARTA) NOTES START CAMPAIGN W/O ISSUES FOR ELECTION W/PREDICTABLE RESULTS; VOTE SET FOR MAY 2. SAYS APPEARANCES MUST BE MAINTAINED, SINCE GOI FACES MOST SERIOUS CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN DECADE OVER ECON PROBLEMS/ CORRUPTION/PERTAMINA ISSUE/POVERTY. REVIEWS IMPORTANCE/ POTENTIAL WEALTH INDONESIA; RECENT PROBLEMS W/OIL FIRMS OVER EXPLORATION. NOTES FOREIGN FINANCIERS EXPRESS GUARDED ADMIRATION OVER WAY PERTAMINA CRISIS BEING TACKLED BY GOI.

14. NEW ZEALAND

CSM'S CARTHEW (IN WELLINGTON) REVIEWS RECENT HISTORY LABOR PARTY. NOTES ROWLING STILL HAS PARTY BACKING, DESPITE OVERWHELMING ELECTORAL DEFEAT/CHALLENGES TO LEADERSHIP.
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CONCLUDES EX-PM AGAIN HAS FIRM POL BASE TO WORK FROM TOWARD

NEXT NATL ELECTION; BUT QUOTES OBSERVERS THAT PARTY CANNOT AFFORD CONTINUE UNDER ROWLING IF LOSES 1978 ELECTION.

14. HUMAN RIGHTS

SMITH (NYT) FINDS AID CUTS ANNOUNCED BY VANCE ARE BREAK W/US PRAGMATISM OF RECENT PAST. RECALLS IN RECENT YRS CONGRESS BECAME DISILLUSIONED W/PRAGMATIC APPROACH, BUT WH/DOS RESISTED PRESSURE TO CUT AID IN MORAL PROTEST OVER RTS ABUSES IN COUNTRIES LIKE SK/IRAN/PHILS/CHILE/ARGENTINA. SMITH FINDS PARADOXICAL THAT EARLIER CONCERN W/"PARALLEL BUT DIFFERENT" MORAL APPROACH DREW US INTO VN, BUT FOUNDERED ON MORAL CONTROVERSY OVER WAR'S CONDUCT/MORALITY OF SUPPORTING GVN THAT INCARCERATED SOME POL FOES IN "TIGER CAGES." SAYS VANCE ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTIES OF CONSISTENCY ON HUMAN RTS ISSUES WHEN SAID RTS CONSIDERATIONS WILL BE SECONDARY TO STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS SK/PHILS.

WIEGHART (NYDN) FINDS GROWING PRESSURE ON PRES TO HALT FREE FLOW COMMENTS IN SUPPORT HUMAN RTS IN WORLD. NOTES CARTER HAS SPOKEN OUT IN PAST AGAINST TREATMENT POL DISSIDENTS IN L AM/CUBA/SK. BELIEVES POL DISSENT ON UPSWING AROUND WORLD. THINKS PRES DETERMINED CONTINUE ALONG PATH CURRENTLY FOLLOWING.

DICKENSON (WSTAR 2/24) SAYS PRES' HUMAN RTS FOCUS HITS HOME. NOTES PRES CAN'T GO WRONG POLITICALLY BY CRITICIZING USSR/PRC ON TOTALITARIAN PRACTICES, BUT PROBLEM IS WHAT DO ABOUT COUNTRIES SUCH AS PHILS/IRAN THAT WE SUPPORT W/ARMS/AID. STATES PRES DID HIT "HARD ONES" WHEN REFERRED TO POL PRISONERS IN SK. REVIEWS US SUPPORT VN/CHINATS; ADDS WE KIDDED OURSELVES FOR YRS OVER DEMOCRACY IN SVN, CLOSED EYES IN SK.

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15. GENERAL

HARSCH (CSM) REVIEWS CARTER'S "MULTI-RING" DIPL CIRCUS. RECALLS MONDALE'S JAPAN VISIT. SAYS UNDER HAK, US FO-POLICY STRUGGLED W/1 CRISIS AFTER ANOTHER, BUT 1 AT A TIME, INCL GETTING US OUT OF VN/NEW RELATIONSHIP W/PRC. CONCLUDES CARTER IS DEPUTIZING/DELEGATING, BUT REMAINS AT CENTRAL CONTROLS.
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